

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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14 January 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Sino-Soviet Bloc Personnel in Cuba

1. This memorandum is for the Director's information only.

2. There is a precise record available to this Division of 98 Sino-Soviet Bloc personnel who have visited or resided in Cuba since 1 January 1959. Fifty-nine of these have had Soviet nationality, 6 Chinese Communist, 4 East German, 18 Czechoslovakian, and 11 Yugoslav. For your convenient reference there is appended hereto a chronological summary of these known visits and the apparent purposes therefor.

3. In the very possible but unconfirmed category there are two reports of Sino-Soviet Bloc personnel in Cuba which are believed worthy of inclusion in this memorandum. One of these, dated 12 October, indicates the "grave concern" of a minor official [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] over what he terms the tendency of the Cuban Government to cultivate relations with Communist China. This official mentioned specifically that there was a Chinese Communist army officer in Cuba at that time serving as an advisor to the Cuban Army. The other report in question, dated 17 November, indicated that over 30 Chinese Communists had arrived in Habana from Peiping the week of 8 November, but there were no further data and a subsequent investigation [REDACTED] could not establish conclusively the validity of the information.

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4. From the above categories one passes to the wholly unsubstantiated and often unevaluated variety of report. There is much of this nature available to the Division, and, taken in the aggregate, it would tend to indicate that there was a greater direct involvement of Sino-Soviet Bloc personnel in Cuban affairs than the first two categories of information by themselves would suggest. By way of example, this Division has a report [REDACTED] to the effect that six Soviet technicians were then present in Cuba; no further details were provided and the information remains unsubstantiated. Similar reports of Soviet officers training Cuban troops fall in the same inconclusive category, and have not been substantiated despite the thorough-going efforts [REDACTED] to do so. It has come to our attention that the Office of Operations and the Federal Bureau of Investigation also have in their files numerous reports of the above nature.

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Acting Chief, MI Division